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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Food Distribution Administration  
Washington 25, D. C.

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May 17, 1943

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FILE INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM NO. 3

To: Liaison Representatives with the Food Industries Labor Branch  
From: Arthur J. Holmaas, Acting Chief, Food Industries Labor Branch  
Subject: Current Developments Concerning Manpower Problems

Wages

As a culmination of several weeks of work with the War Labor Board and the Office of Economic Stabilization by this Branch and other representatives of the War Food Administration, a program was formulated to alleviate wage problems confronting processors of seasonal and perishable food and feed products. This program was approved and issued by the Economic Stabilization Director on May 11, 1943. This directive authorized the War Labor Board to approve necessary wage increases as determined by a formula based on prevailing wage rates for seasonal male labor on farms and the historical differential between farm and processing wage rates. The War Food Administration will supply the necessary farm wage data.

To speed the wage adjustment procedure, arrangements were made with the War Labor Board on May 13 whereby applications will be made direct to the Regional Boards rather than to the local Wage and Hour offices. It was also agreed that action would be taken on informal applications when the submission of a formal Form 10 is not convenient.

Essential Activities

The Essential Activities Committee of the War Manpower Commission passed on several items of interest to the Food Administration this week. Prefabrication of silos was interpreted to be included in Essential Activity Group 8, under "Construction." Licensed grain inspectors, potato inspection services, and livestock inspection services were interpreted to be included under Activity Group 34-1, "Government Services Other Than Federal." The processing of spices was designated as an essential activity and will be added to Activity Group No. 6, "Food Processing." Food compressing and the production of buttermilk, whey, and yeast were interpreted to be included as essential in Activity Group No. 6. The rendering of inedible fats and oils was interpreted to be included in Activity Group No. 17.

In compliance with our agreement with the War Manpower Commission, standards for use by regional War Manpower Commission Directors in determining the designation of milk distribution as a "locally needed" activity have been completed by the Dairy and Poultry Branch. These standards will be reviewed by a joint conference of representatives of industry, the War Manpower Commission and the War Food Administration before the standards are made final.

*Arthur J. Holmaas*

THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF KING CHARLES THE FIRST

BY JOHN BURNET

IN TWO VOLUMES

LONDON

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